

## Video Segment 5: Politics in Football and America

### NOTE-TAKING GUIDE

How do the following ideas from the video support Kirk Morrison's thesis that politics and football are intertwined?

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*“People with power have a responsibility to figure out what the other side is feeling.”*

—PHILLIP SUN

Athletes and celebrities are just like us \_\_\_\_\_  
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The response to “Republicans buy sneakers too” \_\_\_\_\_  
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Basketball star-turned-owner Michael Jordan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Throughout this video series, you've explored different ways that the politics of race and sports intersect. Do you agree with Kirk Morrison that politics belong in sports? Relatedly, do politics belong in business? Do companies have an obligation to become agents of change for the communities they serve and the people they employ?

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We have seen divisive times in U.S. politics when people expressed opposing views and had a hard time accepting the perspectives of the other side. Phillip Sun says compromise is, "all about feeling. It's not necessarily about finding a middle ground." This speaks to an important aspect of business leadership, which is empathizing with people and understanding them on a deeper level. Why do you think understanding others' thoughts, views and feelings makes you a more effective leader? How is this leadership quality of workplace empathy connected to conversations of diversity, equity and inclusion?

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## THE LANGUAGE OF BUSINESS

[Brand](#)

[Franchise](#)

**Black Owner:** An African-American owner of a team, in this case referring to Michael Jordan.

**Democrat:** A supporter of the Democratic Party in U.S. politics. Often, Democrats are considered "the left" and have more liberal views.

**LeBron James:** A professional basketball player and outspoken activist whom Fox News host Laura Ingraham famously told in 2020 to "shut up and dribble" after he made comments in an interview about President Donald Trump. Her comment suggests that he should play basketball and not talk about his political views.

**Majority Owner:** A person or owner who owns more than half of an organization's outstanding shares, or the stock in that organization.

**Michael Jordan:** An American former professional basketball player and the principal owner of the Charlotte Hornets of the National Basketball Association (NBA).

**Middle Ground:** An area of compromise or agreement between two extreme positions, especially political ones.

**MLB:** Major League Baseball is an American professional baseball organization consisting of 30 teams.

**NBA:** The National Basketball Association is an American men's professional basketball league consisting of 30 teams.

**NFL:** The National Football League is a professional American football league that consists of 32 teams.

**Police Brutality:** A civil rights violation when officers exercise excessive force against a victim. George Floyd, for example, is considered a victim of police brutality, and the Black Lives Matter movement protests police brutality against people of color.

**Politics:** Your beliefs in how government should operate and the issues that make up those beliefs.

**Race:** The grouping of humans based on shared physical or social characteristics.

**Racial Profiling:** Considering someone's race or ethnicity as grounds for suspecting he or she committed a crime or wrongdoing.

**Republican:** A supporter of the Republican Party in U.S. politics. Often, Republicans are considered "the right" and have more conservative views.

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